

TICKETS FROM \$10

**A Q THEATRE
TAKEOVER**

**SUNDAY
17 MAY**

**PLOT
TWIST**

**KŌRERO. WORKSHOPS.
PERFORMANCE. MAKING.**

LIT OUTSIDE THE LINES.

PLOT TWIST: SUNDAY 17 MAY

ENJOY LIT OUTSIDE THE LINES WITH PLOT TWIST: THE PROGRAMME THAT BENDS GENRES, BREAKS RULES AND REWRITES THE FESTIVAL SCRIPT. SNAP UP YOUR TICKETS TO THE SESSIONS OR SOAK UP THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE FOYER WITH OUR BOOKSTALL, FREE ZINE-MAKING WITH AUCKLAND ZINEFEST, DJS, BOOKTOK MEET-UPS AND MORE.



CARDS ON THE TABLE: TAROT AND WRITING

11.50am-12.50pm
Vault

Tarot is used to predict the future, but what if it could also unlock creativity? Author **Claire Mabey** presents a hands-on introduction to using tarot as a creative tool. No experience required, but if you have a deck of your own, feel free to bring it.

DREAMING FOR THE OCEAN WITHIN US: TANGATA MOANA WRITERS & DESIRE

1.00-2.00pm
Loft

A bold, intimate conversation exploring Pacific writing beyond expectation and what writers are reaching for when they choose desire as a compass. Featuring **Tusiata Avia**, **Amber Esau** and **Danielle Kionasina Dilys Thomson**.

Part of *Zech Soakai's* Guest Curatorship.



TO HELL AND BACK

2.10-3.10pm
Rangatira

Travel down to the depths of hell with three dynamic writers who uncover the underworld. **RF Kuang's** *Katabasis* sends Cambridge rivals on a deadly academic descent; **Rachel Smythe** reshapes Hades and Persephone's story in *Lore Olympus*; **Nikita Gill's** *Hekate* charts a goddess' rise. Hosted by **Claire Mabey**.

Supported by *Culture Ireland*.

THE RISE OF ROMANCE

12.40-1.40pm
Rangatira

Whether it's the dragon-filled worlds of romantasy, steamy locker rooms of *Heated Rivalry*-style sport romances, or more cosy styles, romance has never been hotter with readers.

Emma Wehipeihana (Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Porou) meets **Ruby Wallace**, **Ivy Cliffwater** and **Shanna Tan** to hear why.

Supported by *Korean Cultural Centre*.



NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR WRITING THE WAY YOU DO

1.20-2.20pm
Vault

Bestselling author **Dominic Hoey** shares practical tools for thriving outside the traditional publishing industry. Covering funding, publishing and growing an audience - and ultimately, how to grow the confidence to forge your own creative path.

THINKING DIFFERENTLY

2.30-3.30pm
Loft

We're not all wired the same. The UK's **Josh Silver**, Canada's **David A. Robertson** and NZ's **Karina McHardy** discuss navigating neurodiversity and mental health, and the fight for better support with **Madeleine Chapman**.

Supported by *the British Council New Zealand and the Pacific* and *Canada Council for the Arts*.

QUEER THE PAGE

2.50-3.50pm
Vault

Reclaim and queer texts in a Blackout Poetry workshop and kōrero with **Hebe Kearney** and **Nathan Joe**. Learn about their work as queer poets, blackout poetry's history of uplifting minority voices, and have a go at creating your own blackout poem.



HOT TAKES, SHARP LINES: A SPOKEN WORD ROUND TABLE

4.00-5.00pm
Loft

Dominic Hoey hosts a Spoken Word Round Table pulsing with dynamic poetry, sharp wit and unforgettable storytelling. Featuring poet baddies **Mr Meaty Boy** (Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi), **Liam Jacobson** (Kāi Tahu), **Amber Esau** (Ngāpuhi, Manase) and **Edinburgh Makar** (Poet Laureate) **Michael Pedersen**. Expect lyrical finesse, surprising turns, mischief and poetry performances that linger long after the last line is spoken.

Supported by *Scottish Books International*.



LOVE WON, LOVE LOST, LOVE BURNED UP IN FLAMES

5.10-6.10pm
Rangatira

Hearts soaring, hearts broken and everything in between. Seven writers share their intimate, passionate, uplifting and devastating seven-minute stories of love. Curated and hosted by **Michael and Matariki Bennett** (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Hinerangi) and featuring **S.A Cosby**, **Elisabeth Easter**, **Victor Rodger**, **Sashi Perera** and **Amber Esau** (Ngāpuhi, Manase) and more.

BOOKTOK MEET-CUTE

12.00pm | Q Theatre Foyer Café

Join our resident BookToker @**CarwenReads** on the café side of the **Q Theatre Foyer** at **12pm** for a relaxed BookTok hangout. Meet fellow creators and enjoy cute crafting before diving into your sessions. All welcome.

PRICING

RANGATIRA: Earlybird \$25; Standard \$30; Patrons \$20.50; Students \$13.50.
LOFT: \$10 **VAULT:** \$30



View the full festival programme and purchase tickets at the QR code above.

www.writersfestival.co.nz

Proudly Sponsored By: The City Centre Targeted Rate



AUCKLAND LIVE

Supported by: Andrew & Jenny Smith

WEIRD GIRL LIT

3.40-4.40pm
Rangatira

Cosy's out. Weird's in. *Sick Sad Lit's* **Jen Eastwood** talks to Korea's **Bora Chung**, Japan's **Mieko Kawakami**, and NZ's **Laura Borrowdale** about using the darkly imaginative, the speculative or the surreal to capture the modern realities of life for women. Supported by *Literature Translation Institute of Korea*.



DYSTOPIA AS PROTEST: WRITE THE FUTURE THAT FIGHTS BACK

4.20-5.20pm
Vault

Join the UK's **Josh Silver** to explore how dystopian fiction questions the present and disrupts the status quo. You'll examine how real world issues become the foundations of dystopian fiction and learn how to create your own.

Supported by *the British Council New Zealand and the Pacific*.

95BFM'S THE WIRE: QUESTION TIME

5.30-6.30pm
Loft

bFM's *The Wire* host **Castor Chacko** goes beyond Aotearoa's headlines with the help of special guests **Max Harris**, **Julie Fairey** and **Gabriella Brayne** (Ngāti Maniapoto, Falefa, Pākehā). From Te Tiriti to climate change; transport to the cost of living, they tackle the topics you care about and answer your questions.